

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's thoughtful reconsideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 under §103 as being unpatentable over US Pub. 2002/0138558 to Ferlitsch in view of USPN 7,148,980 issued to Tominaga.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment and, as amended, recites the following acts:

1. placing production data received from a client in a queue, the production data including production options for a target document identified by the client;
2. generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data held in the queue, the production data to be delivered to one of a plurality of production devices;
3. presenting the queue interface to the client;
4. generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface; and
5. presenting the status interface to the client.

Claim 1 includes one or more acts not taught by Fertlisch and Tominiga. In particular, Claim 1 recites presenting a queue interface, generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface, and then presenting that status interface.

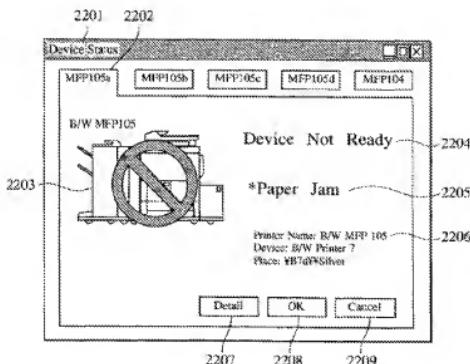
The Examiner admits that Fertlisch fails to teach or suggest a method that includes generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface. To remedy this deficiency, the Examiner turns to

Tominaga. In particular, the Examiner cites Tominaga, Fig. 22 and col. 14, lines 62-67. That passage and figure are reproduced below.

FIG. 22 is a GUI (Graphic User Interface) of a utility representing a device status. For example, in the event that a tab 2202 of the MFP 105a is selected, the device mounting information of the MFP 105a is depicted by graphics 2203, and the state of the device can be judged with displayed information 2204 and 2205 as well.

Tominaga, col. 14, lines 62-67.

FIG. 22



Claims 1 explicitly recites "generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface" (emphasis added). Tominaga, figure 2 shows a user interface displaying the status of a device (MFP105a). However, Tominaga is silent as the circumstances that cause that user interface to be generated and then displayed. In other words, Tominaga mentions nothing of generating a status interface for a device (MFP105a) as a result of that device (MFP105a) being selected through a queue interface or any other interface. At best, one can only presume that the status interface (2203) is generated for a particular device [(MFP105a), (MFP105b), (MFP105c), (MFP105d), and (MFP104)]

as a result of that device being selected through a device status interface (2201). Device status interface (2201) is NOT a queue interface.

Consequently, Fertlisch and Tominaga fails to teach or suggest generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Wanda as are Claims 2-3 and 5-7 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 8 like Claim 1 recites presenting a queue interface, generating a status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 8 and Claims 9 and 11-13 which depend from Claim 8. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

Claim 14 is directed to a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 14 and Claims 15 and 17-19 which depend from Claim 14.

Claim 20 is directed to a computer program product for mediating access to production devices. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 20 and Claims 21 and 23-25 which depend from Claim 20. Claim 22 was cancelled.

Claim 26 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites elements for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 26 and Claims 27-31 which depend from Claim 26.

Claim 32 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites the following elements for implementing the

method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 32 and Claims 33-38 which depend from Claim 32.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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